Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 08025 111249Z ACTION COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4463

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEHRAN 8025

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, BEXP, IR, US

SUBJ: POSSIBLE CONFERENCE OF BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL IN TEHRAN

1. AT REQUEST ORVILLE FREEMAN, HEAD OF BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL, I HAVE PURSUED WITH MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY ANSARY, THE DESIRE OF BI TO HOLD A LARGE GATHERING OF U.S. BUSINESSMEN IN TEHRAN IN THE SPRING OF 1978.

- 2. ANSARY TELEPHONED ME SEPTEMBER 10 TO SAY THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH HIS COLLEAGUES AND EVENTUALLY WITH SHAH. NET RESULT OF THIS DISCUSSION WAS CONCLUSION THAT IRAN WOULD AGREE TO BI PROPOSAL ONLY IF BI COULD DEMONSTRATE THAT MEETING WOULD PRODUCE "TANGIBLE RESULTS". ANSARY SAID THAT JIM LINEN HAD SPONSORED SIMILAR CONFERENCE FEW YEARS AGO WHICH WAS A DANDY CONFERENCE BUT WHICH THEN EVAPORATED AS FAR AS RESULTS CONCERNED.
- 3. I GATHERED THAT "RESULTS" ANTICIPATED WOULD HAVE TO DO WITH INVESTMENT, JOINT VENTURES AND TRADE OPPORTUNITIES. IT THEREFORE APPEARS THAT FREEMAN WILL HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE TO ANSARY'S SATISFACTION THAT BI CONFERENCE IN TEHRAN CAN REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO HAVE THESE CONSEQUENCES.
- 4. ANSARY WILL BE IN WASHINGTON DURING PERIOD SEPTEMBER 25 TO 27, ATTENDING IMF-IBRD MEETINGS. HE WILL BE PLEASED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO MEET WITH FREEMAN DURING THAT PERIOD. IF FREEMAN WISHES TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OFFER, HE SHOULD WORK OUT APPOINTMENT WITH AMBASSADOR ZAHEDI OR HIS STAFF, WHICH IS ARRANGING ANSARY'S WASHINGTON SCHEDULE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT IS REQUESTED CALL ORVILLE FREEMAN

AND ADVISE HIM OF FOREGOING. PLEASE LET ME KNOW FREEMAN'S
REACTION PRIOR ANSARY'S SEPTEMBER 22 DEPARTURE DATE FROM
TEHRAN.
SULLIVAN

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